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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

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Fig. 10 schematically depicts a conventional system for drawing an optical fiber 402-1002 from an optical preform, said system being typically located onto a so-called drawing tower. The drawing system generally comprises a drawing furnace 404-1001, wherein the bottom of an optical preform is heated at its softening temperature, an apparatus 403-1003 for measuring the diameter of the drawn fiber 402-1002, a cooling apparatus 404-1004 for cooling the fiber before coating it and a coating device 405-1005 for applying the protective coating onto the fiber. The optical preform is generally connected to moving means for progressively moving the preform downwardly to the heating zone of the furnace while the fiber is being drawn. The coating device may comprise a coating die, containing a liquid curable resin composition (e.g. urethane-acrylate based resin), followed by a UV curing apparatus 406-1006 (e.g. an UV oven) and by a device 407-1007 for measuring the diameter of the coated fiber and the concentricity of said coating. When desired, further coating devices may be positioned after the first one, for applying further layers of different coating compositions onto the fiber.